

CLAIMS AS AMENDED AFTER THE 8/25/2004 ELECTION REQUIREMENT

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning and drying one or more workpieces within a single process vessel, comprising in any sequence the steps of:

placing the workpieces into the process vessel;

introducing a processing fluid into the process vessel, with the processing fluid beneath the workpiece;

heating the processing fluid with a heater;

introducing ozone gas into the process vessel;

immersing the workpieces in the processing fluid within the process vessel;

introducing a drying fluid into the process vessel; and

removing the processing fluid from the process vessel.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of introducing the ozone gas comprises bubbling the ozone gas into the process fluid.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of continuously introducing processing fluid into the process vessel during the immersing.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of introducing a drying gas comprises the step of introducing a dilute organic vapor above the processing fluid in the process vessel.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the dilute organic vapor comprises isopropyl alcohol.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the drying fluid is a drying gas selected from the group consisting of air and nitrogen.

24-29. (Cancelled).

30. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the drying fluid comprises an organic solvent.

31. (New) The method of claim 17 further including the step of flowing the processing fluid over a weir at one side of the process vessel.

32. (New) The method of claim 17 with the ozone introduced by spraying the ozone onto the workpieces.

33. (New) The method of claim 17 further including the step of bubbling the ozone into the processing fluid.

34. (New) A process for cleaning and drying workpieces, comprising in any sequence:

holding one or more workpieces in a process chamber;

heating a process liquid;

holding the heated process liquid in the process chamber, with the process liquid below the workpieces;

bubbling the ozone gas up through the process liquid in the process chamber;

immersing the workpieces into the process liquid in the process chamber, by raising the level of the process liquid in the process chamber, or by lowering the workpieces into the process liquid;

flowing fresh processing liquid into the process chamber, while the workpieces are immersed in the process liquid; and

drying the workpieces.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 where a fresh supply of process liquid is continuously provided into the process chamber, while the workpieces are immersed in the process liquid, by flowing fresh process liquid into the process chamber, and by draining off process liquid over a weir adjacent the surface of the process liquid.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 further including rinsing the workpieces.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 where the rinsing step is performed by spraying a rinsing liquid onto the workpieces.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 with the drying step performed by contacting the workpieces with a heated drying gas.

39. (New) The method of claim 34 further including drying the workpieces via a surface tension effect.

40. (New) The method of claim 34 further including the step of heating the process liquid while the process liquid is in the process chamber.

41. (New) The method of claim 34 further including spinning the one or more workpieces within the process chamber.

42. (New) The method of claim 34 further including sealing the chamber.

43. (New) A process for cleaning, rinsing and drying workpieces, comprising:

holding one or more workpieces in a process chamber;

heating a process liquid;

holding the heated process liquid in the process chamber, with the process liquid below the workpieces;

bubbling the ozone gas up through the process liquid in the process chamber;

immersing the workpieces into the process liquid in the process chamber, by raising the level of the process liquid in the process chamber, or by lowering the workpieces into the process liquid;

continuously flowing fresh processing liquid into the process chamber, while the workpieces are immersed in the process liquid, and draining off process liquid over a weir adjacent the surface of the process liquid;

rinsing the workpieces by spraying a rinsing liquid onto the workpieces.

drying the workpieces.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 further including spinning the workpieces in the process chamber.